
HOUSE BILL No. 1203

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 14-34.

Synopsis: Coal mine reclamation permit bonds. Authorizes the director of the department of natural resources to: (1) initiate an application for the release of a reclamation plan performance bond; and (2) require operators to withdraw from the surface coal mine reclamation bond pool under certain circumstances. Allows a mine operator to withdraw from the bond pool upon replacing bond pool liability with bonds acceptable under the surface coal mining and reclamation bonding law.

Effective: July 1, 2004.

Frenz

January 13, 2004, read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development.

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Introduced

Second Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2004)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1203

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-34-6-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 7. **(a)** After a permit is
3 issued, the permittee may apply to the director for the release of all or
4 part of the bond or deposit. As part of the bond release application, the
5 permittee must do the following:

6 (1) Submit copies of letters that the permittee has sent by certified
7 mail to:

8 (A) adjoining property owners;

9 (B) local government bodies;

10 (C) planning agencies;

11 (D) sewage and water treatment authorities; or

12 (E) water companies;

13 in the county in which the surface coal mining and reclamation
14 operation is located notifying the entities of the bond release
15 application.

16 (2) Within thirty (30) days after filing the bond release
17 application, submit a copy of an advertisement placed at least one

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(1) time a week for four (4) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the surface coal mining and reclamation operation is located. The advertisement must contain the following:

(A) A notification of the precise location of the land affected.

(B) The number of acres.

(C) The permit and the date of approval.

(D) The amount of the bond filed and the part sought to be released.

(E) The type and appropriate dates of reclamation work performed.

(F) A description of the results achieved relating to the operator's approved reclamation plan.

(b) The director may initiate an application for the release of a bond. If a bond release application is initiated by the director, the department shall perform the notification and certification requirements otherwise imposed on the permittee under this section and section 8 of this chapter.

SECTION 2. IC 14-34-6-10 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 10. (a) This section applies to the following:

(1) A person with a legal interest that might be adversely affected by release of a bond.

(2) The responsible officer or head of a federal, state, or local governmental agency that:

(A) has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to an environmental, a social, or an economic impact involved in the operation; or

(B) may develop and enforce environmental standards with respect to those operations.

(b) A person described in subsection (a) may do the following:

(1) File written objections to the proposed release from bond with the director.

(2) Request a public hearing within thirty (30) days after the last publication of the ~~permittee's~~ notice required by section 7 of this chapter.

SECTION 3. IC 14-34-8-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 4. (a) As used in this section, "mining" includes contract mining.

(b) As used in this section, "operator" includes a predecessor in interest, subsidiaries, and affiliates as approved by the director.

(c) Participation in the bond pool is open to each operator applying

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for a permit under this article who, after May 3, 1978, has a five (5) year history of mining within Indiana and who meets the following conditions:

- (1) Is not subject to an outstanding cessation order issued under:
 - (A) IC 13-4.1-11-5 (before its repeal); or
 - (B) IC 14-34-15-6.
- (2) Does not owe a civil penalty under:
 - (A) IC 13-4.1-12 (before its repeal);
 - (B) IC 14-34-16; or
 - (C) the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 through 1328).
- (3) Does not:
 - (A) owe a fee:
 - (i) under IC 13-4.1 (before its repeal);
 - (ii) under this article; or
 - (iii) collected under the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 through 1328); or
 - (B) have a history of delinquency in the payment of fees or civil penalties.
- (4) Has never been suspended under:
 - (A) IC 13-4.1-6.5-6 (before its repeal); or
 - (B) section 6 of this chapter.
- (d) Participation in the bond pool is:
 - (1) optional for each permit application;
 - (2) subject to approval by the director; and
 - (3) not effective until the entrance fee has been paid in full.
- (e) The director may, based on all available information, disapprove an application that may create an unreasonable risk to the bond pool.
- (f) This chapter does not preclude compliance with IC 14-34-6 instead of participation in the bond pool before commencement of participation in the bond pool.
- (g) Commencement of participation in the bond pool for the applicable permit constitutes an irrevocable commitment to participate in the bond pool for the applicable permit for the duration of the surface coal mining operations covered under the permit, **unless the operator has replaced all bond pool liability with bonds acceptable under IC 14-34-6-1.**
- (h) An operator may apply for participation in the bond pool on a bond increment area under an existing permit. Commencement of participation in the bond pool for the bond increment area, within an existing permit, constitutes an irrevocable commitment to participate in the bond pool for the duration of that surface coal mining permit,

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1 **unless the operator has replaced all bond pool liability with bonds**
 2 **acceptable under IC 14-34-6-1.**

3 SECTION 4. IC 14-34-8-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 4 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 6. (a) Subject to
 5 subsection ~~(b)~~; **(c)**, an operator is suspended from the bond pool if the
 6 operator:

7 (1) fails to pay a fee or civil penalty under:

8 (A) IC 13-4.1 (before its repeal);

9 (B) this article; or

10 (C) the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act
 11 of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 through 1328); or

12 (2) receives a cessation order that is not abated.

13 **(b) If the final release of a bond has not been obtained within ten**
 14 **(10) years after the date of the last required report of the affected**
 15 **area for the permit, including new disturbances, the director may**
 16 **require the operator to:**

17 **(1) replace the bond pool liability with bonds acceptable**
 18 **under IC 14-34-6-1; and**

19 **(2) withdraw that operation from the bond pool.**

20 **If the operator fails to comply with the director's order to**
 21 **withdraw a mine area from the bond pool, the director may**
 22 **suspend the operator from the bond pool.**

23 **(c)** An operator is not suspended from the bond pool if the director
 24 makes a written determination that mitigating circumstances are
 25 present that would not create an unreasonable risk to the bond pool if
 26 the operator's participation continues.

27 ~~(c)~~ **(d)** An operator who is suspended from the bond pool shall cease
 28 all surface coal mining operations until the operator furnishes a new
 29 performance bond under IC 14-34-6-1 in an amount calculated under
 30 IC 14-34-6-2 for all disturbed areas and proposed additional mining
 31 areas under the permit. When the new performance bond has been
 32 executed, the bond pool has no additional liability for reclamation on
 33 any part of the area covered by the applicable permit.

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